

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5523

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 0056

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, XJ, AO, SF, RH, OAU

SUBJ: ANGOLA IN LISBON PRESS

SUMMARY: APPROACHING ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY SPECIAL MEETING ON ANGOLA HAS GENERATED SPATE OF ANGOLA-RELATED STORIES IN LISBON PRESS. UNITA HAS REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE, DEPARTURE OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA, AND FORMATION OF TRIPARTITE NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. REPORTS OF USG TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES FOR ANGOLA HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PLAY IN LISBON. AGOSTINHO NETO HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT "IMPERIALIST ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AGAINST ANGOLA." END SUMMARY

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1. WITH APPROACH OF JAN 10 ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON ANGOLA, LISBON PRESS HAS GIVEN INCREASING ATTENTION TO SITUATION IN ANGOLA. CONFERENCE ITSELF HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PLAY, WITH EMPHASIS ON FACT THAT TWENTY OF OAU'S FORTY-SIX MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED MPLA. COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE LISBOA" REPORTED JAN 3 THAT USG HAD EXERTED EFFORT TO ENSURE LARGE TURNOUT FOR MEETING IN ORDER TO DILUTE PRO-MPLA REPRESENTATIVES. INDEPENDENT "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CONCLUDED JAN 5 THAT PARTICIPATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ON SIDE OF FNLA/UNITA WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR OAU MEMBERS TO AVOID SUPPORTING MPLA.

2. CONFERENCE HAS GENERATED SPATE OF RELATED STORIES:
--"DIARIO DE LISBOA" REPORTED JAN 3 THAT SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY ON NAMIBIA-ANGOLA FRONTIER HAD BEEN HEIGHTENED FOLLOWING DISCOVERY BY PRETORIA SECRET SERVICE THAT MPLA WAS MASSING TROOPS AT SEVERAL POINTS IN SOUTH OF ANGOLA FOR MAJOR OFFENSIVE TO COINCIDE WITH OAU MEETING.
--"DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" REPORTED JAN 5 THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING ALL ITS FORCES IN ANGOLA BY JAN 10 TO AVOID EMBARRASSING FNLA AND UNITA AT OAU CONFERENCE. "FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PRETORIA" WERE CITED AS BASIS OF REPORT.
-- CONSERVATIVE "O DIA" REPORTED JAN 5 THAT 12,000 GUERRILLAS BELONGING TO ZIMBABAWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (ZANU) WOULD INVADE RHODESIA FROM MOCAMBIQUE ON OR ABOUT JAN 10. MOTIVE FOR INVASION WOULD BE TO UNDERMINE POSITION OF JOSHUA NKOMO, PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH RHODESIAN CHIEF IAN SMITH.
INVASION WOULD REPORTEDLY BE SUPPORTED BY FRELIMO FORCES.

3. UNITA CONGRESS: LISBON PRESS REPORTED JAN 3 THAT UNITA HAD HELD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONGRESS IN SILVA PORTO, ABOUT 350 MILES SOUTHEAST OF LUANDA "DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS." CONGRESS REPORTEDLY ISSUED CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN ANGOLA, TO BE FOLLOWED BY WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS AND FORMATION OF TRIPARTITE "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY." ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, CONGRESS WAS ATTENDED BY SEVERAL HIGH FNLA OFFICIALS. "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" REPORTED JAN 5 THAT MPLA RESPONDED TO CALL BY STEPPING UP OPERATIONS AGAINST UNITA, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT DID NOT GIVE DETAILS.

5. MERCENARIES: PRESS HAS RECENTLY GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO REPORTS OF USG RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES FOR SERVICE IN ANGOLA. ALL MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED NESSEN DENIAL THAT USG HAD SENT OR WAS RECRUITING AMERICAN CITIZEN MERCENARIES FOR ANGOLA SERVICE, AS WELL AS HIS REFUSAL TO COMMENT ON USG RECRUITMENT OR TRAINING OF NON-AMERICANS. "DIARIO DE LISBOA"

REPORTED JAN 3 THAT BAY OF PIGS VETERAN JOSE ANTONIO PRATT
HAD ANNOUNCED CUBAN EXILES WERE BEING RECRUITED FOR UNITA
IN MIAMI BY UNSPECIFIED INTERESTS.

6. NETO ON ECONOMIC MEASURES: INDEPENDENT "JORNAL NOVO"
JAN 1 CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM RECENT SPEECH IN ANGOLA BY
AGOSTINHO NETO, HEAD OF MPLA. NOTEWORTHY ARE HIS COMMENTS
ON "IMPERIALIST BOYCOTT AGAINST ANGOLAN ECONOMY." NETO REFERRED
TO FREEZING OF ANGOLAN FOREIGN BANK ACCOUNTS AND REFUSAL
BY AMERICAN COMPANIES TO DELIVER AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD ALREADY
BEEN PAID FOR AS "ROBBERY." HE FURTHER COMPLAINED THAT WITHDRAWAL
OF GULF OIL EMPLOYEES FROM CABINDA HAD LEFT ANGOLA WITHOUT
PETROLEUM, THUS SERIOUSLY DAMAGING ANGOLAN ECONOMY.
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